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## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN**

### **AGENCY AND INITIAL PUBLIC SCOPING**

Public participation in the review of the Plan of Operations for the Whirlwind Project is accomplished by several methods. There are other concurrent, required mine plan permitting procedures in addition to the NEPA compliance procedures that enable public participation. The following summarizes the additional Plan of Operations public involvement processes (outside the EA process) and the planned public participation opportunities to address NEPA requirements for the completion of the EA.

To date, Energy Fuels has completed the below tasks which provide for public involvement at various stages as part of concurrent Plan of Operations permit procedures;

- The Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety 112(d) Mine Permit Application public review process was announced within the Grand Junction Daily Sentinel (for a four week period, until October, 11). A complete copy of the 112(d) permit is kept at the County Recorders office (Main St., Grand Junction) for public access. The BLM will receive a copy of any public comments generated as part of this review process.
- A Conditional Use Permit Application has been submitted to the Mesa County Planning Department. This application, which is similar in content to the BLM Plan of Operations, will be discussed and reviewed in public hearings held by the Mesa County Planning Commission and the County Commissioners. These meetings provide a forum for public participation and comment. The BLM is also invited to attend.
- The BLM Grand Junction and Moab Field Offices have been provided with copies of the Plan of Operations that can be made available to the public for review. An electronic copy of the permit document was also provided to the Grand Junction Field Office.
- Other articles in local newspapers have been released which describe the Whirlwind project (article in the Grand Junction Sentinel – August 30, 2007).

As part of the NEPA EA process, the planned public participation opportunities include;

- The scoping period will occur within September 12 to October 14, 2007 with the release of the initial newsletter to all entities within the project mailing list (to be provided by the BLM as per the Whirlwind MOU).
- Newsletters will be sent to all those within the project mailing list. The initial newsletter summarizes the Plan of Operations as well as ongoing public participation opportunities (e.g. review of the Plan of Operations). A second

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newsletter will summarize the Preliminary EA findings (to be mailed October 1, 2007). Follow-on newsletters will be provided pending topics to be discussed (as per BLM and Energy Fuels direction).

- Newsletters, the Plan of Operations, the Preliminary EA, as well as the final EA will all be posted on the BLM Grand Junction Field Office web page for public access.
- A Public Scoping meeting will be held on September 28, 2007 at the Gateway Community Center (7:00 – 9:00 pm). An overview of the Plan of Operations and the BLM planning process will be presented.
  - This meeting will be announced in three local newspapers (Grand Junction Daily Sentinel/Grand Junction, CO, Grand Junction Free Press, and the San Miguel Basin Forum Newspaper/Nucla, CO), will be advertised with the use of fliers posted at public areas, and with newsletter mailings to the project mailing list (inclusive of the Gateway Homeowners Association members).
  - Comments generated during the meeting will be documented and discussed at the meeting. These comments will be provided to the BLM and incorporated into the Preliminary EA where appropriate.

## **PRELIMINARY EA**

Development of the Preliminary EA (PEA) will incorporate input from BLM specialists and input from cooperating and other government agencies, the public, and Energy Fuels.

Public scoping will occur within September 12 through October 14, 2007 with the release of the initial project newsletter. Scoping will also include the Public Scoping meeting for the Preliminary EA on September 28, 2007 at 7:00 pm. This meeting will be held at the Gateway Community Center. The meeting will be a workshop format, providing education on the proposed project details and allowing for public comment. Written comments will be gathered and received at the meeting as well as within the Preliminary EA scoping period.

The Preliminary EA will be provided for 30-day public review after the BLM internal review period. Copies will be made available at public repositories (County Recorder's office and the BLM Grand Junction Field office) as well as within the BLM Grand Junction Field Office web site. Comments will be gathered by Gault Group Inc. (Karmen King: [970-565-0278] kking@aquatox.us) and reviewed and considered by the BLM for incorporation into the Final EA.

## **FINAL EA**

Development of the EA will incorporate comments on the Preliminary EA – and other input from BLM specialists and, where appropriate, from cooperating and other government agencies, the public, and Energy Fuels.

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## **MEDIA**

The news media (three local newspapers including the Grand Junction Daily Sentinel, the Grand Junction Free Press, and the San Miguel Basin Forum Newspaper) will be provided news releases at each stage of the NEPA process (i.e., public scoping, issuance of EA and issuance of Decision Record). In addition, they will be advised of any public meetings. All news releases will be drafted by Karmen King/Gault Group and coordinated through the BLM Grand Junction Field Office Public Affairs Specialist or Colorado State Office of Communications.